

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-34 under 35 USC § 102(e).

In view of the remarks below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections, and allowance of the subject Application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected 1-34 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kwoh (USPN 6,226,793). Applicant has reviewed Kwoh carefully and submits that Kwoh does not disclose, teach or suggest any of the methods or devices claimed in claims 1-34. A closure look at Kwoh reveals that the claims of the present invention are directed to substantially different methods and devices than that considered or disclosed in Kwoh. More particularly, in regard to claim 1, Kwoh does not disclose, teach or suggest:

selecting a content-based specification;

selecting a finite time range specification associated with the
selected content-based specification;

comparing the selected content-based specification with received
content-based indicator when the reference time falls within the finite time
range specification; and

generating a control signal based on the comparison between the
selected content-based specification and the received content-based
indicator.

as claimed in claim 1. In accordance with claim 1, selective supervision of personal

exposure to a consumer electronics device is accomplished by automatically comparing the content of a program to a selected content-based specification during a specific time period and not comparing the content of the same program during a different time period. Although Kwoh discusses comparing a program's rating to "predetermined content ratings" to determine whether or not to block the program, Kwoh does not discuss or suggest including a provision for automatically turning on or off its blocking mechanism during a given time period or "interval." Kwoh does refer to time of day and length of program, but merely in regard to blocking a particular program or programs, which is a static rather than a dynamic use of time. Kwoh does not provide for or suggest a system or method in which a program is blocked or impaired if its content exceeds a selected content-based specification if a reference time falls within a selected time interval.

In Kwoh, as illustrated in Fig. 6 and discussed at Column 7, lines 22-40 and, more particularly, at lines 29-32, its parental control system is either on or off, i.e., if the key lock 33 for the parental control system is in the on or off position the control system will either block or enable specific programs by blocking or enable viewing of a specified channel at a specified time of day for a specified length of time or block or enable viewing of programs based on program ratings or content. It does not block or enable viewing of programs based on program ratings or content during selected time intervals.

Rating or content based blocking is either on or off and is not a function of time, i.e., Kwoh does not discuss or suggest a provision for automatically turning on or off its blocking mechanism during a given time period or "interval." Accordingly, claim 1, and claims 2-12 and 32-33 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 1, meet the

requirements for patentability under 35 USC § 102(e).

Turning to claim 13, Kwoh does not disclose, teach or suggest:

selecting a first content-based rating;

selecting a first finite time range specification associated with the
first content-based rating;

comparing the first selected content-based rating with the received
content-based rating when the reference time falls within the first finite
time range specification; and

impairing the program signal if the received content-based rating
exceeds the first selected content-based rating.

as claimed in claim 13. In accordance with claim 13, selective supervision of personal exposure to a consumer electronics device is accomplished by automatically comparing the content of a program to a selected content-based specification during a specific time period and not comparing the content of the same program during a different time period, and, if during the specific time period the program content exceeds the selected content based specification, impairing the program signal. As noted above, Kwoh discusses comparing a program's rating to "predetermined content ratings" to determine whether or not to block the program, but does not discuss or suggest including a provision for automatically turning on or off its blocking mechanism during a given time period or "interval." Kwoh's reference to a time is in regard to time of day and length of program for the purpose of blocking or enabling specific program, which is a static rather than a dynamic use of time. storage of program data from an EPG for a given time period. Kwoh does not discuss or suggest a system or method in which a program

is blocked or impaired if its content exceeds a selected content-based specification for a specific time period. Accordingly, claim 13, and claims 14-18 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 13, meet the requirements for patentability under 35 USC § 102(e).

For the same reasons stated in regard to claim 1 above, Kwoh fails to disclose, teach or suggest the steps of

- selecting a content-based specification;

- selecting a finite time range specification associated with the selected content-based specification;

- comparing the selected content-based specification with the received content-based indicator when the reference time falls within the finite time range specification; and

- generating a control signal based on the comparison between the selected content-based specification and the received content-based indicator,

as claimed in claim 19. Accordingly, claim 19, and claims 20-24 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 19, meet the requirements for patentability under 35 USC § 102(e).

Turning to claim 25, for the same reasons stated above in regard to claims 1, 13 and 19, Kwoh fails to disclose, teach or suggest

- a logic unit coupled to the non-volatile memory and being configured for comparing a content-based indicator with the content-based specification when a reference time falls within the finite time range

specification, the logic unit being further configured for generating a control signal in response to the comparison between the content-based indicator and the content-based specification;

as claimed in claim 25. Accordingly, claim 25, and claims 26-31 and 34 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 25, meet the requirements for patentability under 35 USC § 102(e).

Conclusion

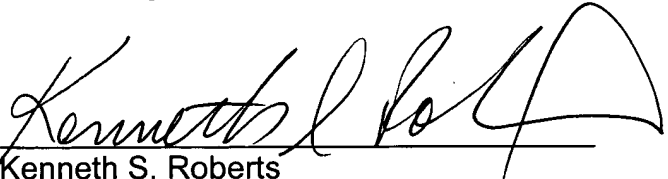
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow the application with the presently pending claims 1-34. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (949) 567-6700 ext. 7760, if the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview would advance this case to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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